

THIS WEEK'S AMUSEMENTS

What the Indianapolis Theater-Goers Will Find to Entertain Them.

Successful Society Play, "The Charity Ball," to Open the Week—Theodore Thomas's Concert—Other Attractions Coming.

"The Charity Ball," a play of New York society life, by David Belasco and H. C. DeMille, whose "Lord Chumley" and "The Wife" have made them well known to all theater goers, will be seen for the first time in Indianapolis at the Grand Opera-house to-morrow night, the engagement continuing until Thursday. This play was first produced at the Lyceum Theater, New York, Nov. 10, 1890, and had a run there of two hundred performances. It achieved a success, as from the start it chained attention and created interest, which deepened and intensified as the action of the play unfolded in incident and dialogue.

It is rather novel to make a clergyman the hero of a play, and a charity ball the medium for part of a lesson in morals. It is, perhaps still more surprising to find in such things the materials for an interesting play as has lately been seen on the stage. This, too, despite the fact that the story has in it nothing improbable or exceptionally eventful. The clergyman,

John VanBuren, in love with a young girl, whose father's death he has attended,

brings her to his mother's home, only to discover after a time that she has been wronged by his own brother. Torn with shame and remorse, he comes to him to confess her sin. He awakens in the heart of his guilty brother the conscience deadened by the rush of Wall street, and finally finds his own happiness in the love of a true woman, who has extended to her erring sister the help and pity that religion bids innocence hold out to penitence. But the play, even in the earlier and most serious acts, is not all of these elements. The authors, with that true art that is nearest to nature—when it does not improve on nature—have combined with these elements, the serious and the humorous, in a most effective way. The comedy is excellent, too, and though it never borders on extravagance, the laughter it creates certainly does. The practical joke played upon Judge Knox, by which his rapturous anticipations of wedded happiness are cruelly nipped in the bud, and his agony under the infliction so exquisite, gives rise to as much fun as the widest humor could extract from impossible situations—yet all this is natural, never overdone, never vulgar, never silly.

"The Charity Ball" will be given here by Mr. Frohman's traveling company from the Lyceum, several of whom played in the original production, and with the same scenic accessories as were employed there. In the cast are such capable people as Boyd Putnam, George H. Leonard, W. A. Sand, Homer Granville, Merriam Bruce, Miss Edythe Chapman, Miss Ethel Graybrooke, Miss Alice Elton, Miss Jeannette Lowry and others.

A musical event of unusual interest, not only in itself, but from the additional fact that it will be the first of a series, is the orchestral concert to be given by Mr. Theodore Thomas's orchestra at English's next Wednesday evening. Since Mr. Thomas has become located in Chicago he has been giving series of concerts in Louisville, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and other cities. Knowing this various gentlemen have interested themselves in getting the orchestra to come to this city for a series of entertainments, and they have been able to accomplish this by securing subscriptions for season tickets in sufficient numbers to maintain the orchestra. The list of those who have subscribed for tickets, from two to six each, includes the names of the representative people of the city. The first of these concerts will take place on Wednesday evening next, and the other two Jan. 12 and March 3 respectively. Mr. Thomas's orchestra, which includes fifty musicians, most of whom have played under his direction for years, is the best and most organized of its kind in the country. The programme for next Wednesday's concert is as follows:

Overture, "Eugene".....Beethoven
Symphony No. 5, minor (unfinished).....Schubert
Allegro moderato, Andante con moto.....Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso.....Saint-Saens
Max Mendels.
Scherzo Capriccioso.....Dvorak
Intermission.
Valse, "Mistress".....Wagner
Theatre and Variations.....Strauss
Fantasia, "O Caro Menzies".....Serafin
Borne Steinfeld.
Allegretto Gypsy.....Op. 39. Moszkowski
Expectation, Monks.

turned from a tour of European vaudeville theaters, particularly those of London and the English provinces. The "American Macs" (formerly the "Two Macs") have also been playing in London music halls for many months, and their "knock-about" Irish act, while it may be a trifle wearing on them, is nevertheless very amusing to those who see it. Other members of the company are John Drew, a character comedian and dancer, who has a high rank among specialty people; the Brothers Wern, acrobatic dancers and vocalists; the Continental Four, including the clever Sisters Coyne, Tachibana and Oume, Japanese acrobats, who do a startling act; the human sisters, dancers, Gallagher and West, well-known comedians, who are favorites here; Latona, the musical comedian, and others. The afterpiece which this company presents is a genuine slapstick, "Dunderbock in a Fix," with Harry Watson in the leading part. It is said to be very amusing. The engagement continues to-morrow, and last all week, with two performances daily, and no advance in price.

An amusing and interesting drama in four acts, entitled "Caught in His Own Trap," will be presented at the Proprium, Tuesday evening. This is the first time this play has ever been produced before the public, and the elegant costumes, chorus of sweet singers and fine scenery combined will make this entertainment one of the most enjoyable features of the holiday attractions. The leading characters will be as follows: Misses Emma M. Farsell, as Elizabeth Ingalls, Babo Hollywood, as Helen Barnaby, her visitor; Millie Higgins, as Margaret O'Flanagan, a servant girl; Ella Wilkins, as Mrs. Ingalls, Elizabeth's mother; Wilkinson, as Phil Hamlet, Elizabeth's lover; Harry Murgar, as Charles Haver, the rival; Harry Lion, as Tommy Pook, a green country boy; and Goldwin Smith, as Mr. Ingalls, Elizabeth's father, assisted by a number of other young talented artists. Proceeding from the Lyceum, the play will be presented at the Denison House pharmacy and at the door of the Proprium.

Mr. E. H. Sothern will be seen at the Grand Opera-house the first three nights of next week in Henry Arthur Jones's new and successful play "The Dancing Girl." This play has already been running over 150 nights in London, and has had a long run at the Lyceum in New York. Manager Daniel Frohman sends it direct from its source, where it has been running with the same company, scenery and accessories. In this play Mr. Sothern plays a very different kind of a part from that which he has previously been seen in this city, but his work in it has been commended as being of the highest character, showing a much greater versatility than this young actor is suspected by many people of having.

Gossip of the Stage.
Miss Julia Marlowe comes to the Grand Christmas week.
Hilda Thomas, of this city, has returned to the east of "Evangelina" after a severe illness. She is said to be an ideal Gabriel.

Fanny Davenport is negotiating for the lease of a prominent London theater. If she secures it, she will present Barlow's "Cleopatra" for a season.

Efforts have been made to secure Lillian Russell and Jessie Bartlett Davis to head the company of the Lyceum, but the once-celebrated Kellogg-Cary company.

Aubrey Boncicault is to marry Miss Amy Burt, daughter of G. M. Boncicault, of Chicago, N. Y. Both Mr. Boncicault and the young lady are members of Stuart Robinson's company.

All sorts of stories are afloat as to the fortune of W. J. Florence left about \$20,000. Mrs. Thurber, of the Thurber Conservatory of Music, offers \$1,000 for the best piano or comic opera; \$500 for the best libretto for grand or comic opera; \$500 for the best symphony; \$500 for the best oratorio; \$500 for the best piano or violin concerto.

Ned Reed, an old-time, black-face comedian, died at Dayton, O., Nov. 27, after a long illness. He was born at Cincinnati, and had reached his fifty-third year. He made his first appearance on the stage at the Palace Varieties, Cincinnati, in 1859, and was at one time a member of Kelly & Leonard's minstrels.

May Howard, the burlesque, has concluded that a leading position in a strong company, accompanied by a large salary, is more desirable than a career as a star. She has closed out the affairs of her own company, and has joined Donnelly and Girard, to play the part of Daisy, in "Natural Gas."

Elie Florence Elliott, professionally known as Elie De Leon, died at Detroit, Mich., Nov. 23, after a long illness, of consumption. The deceased was widely and favorably known in the profession. For some time past Mr. De Leon has been acting as manager of Wies's Theater, at Lafayette, Ind.

Cincinnati Enquirer: Jean Voorhees, a beautiful blonde, and niece of the popular Indiana Senator, is attracting considerable attention as the adventuress in "Only a Farmer's Daughter." The best critics in some of our leading cities have commended her work. She is not a runaway, as frequently there is no romance. Her parents gave full consent and are proud of her record.

James O'Neill declares he will not play in "Monte Cristo" after this season. He has appeared in the play nearly three thousand times, and, as to the prize, has spent at forty minutes in length, he has spent about three months in the dungeons of the Chateau d'If. He says his time will be out in the spring. "Monte Cristo" has netted for O'Neill \$200,000. He ought not to be tired of it.

In the original production of "The Wife" here the Mrs. Bellamy's, Mrs. Miss Ethel Graybrooke was one of the most enjoyable features of a very enjoyable performance. Miss Graybrooke is that rare combination among the ladies of the stage—a beautiful woman and a delightful comedienne. She returns to the local stage in the congenial role of Mrs. Camilla De Peyster, in "The Charity Ball."

"Captain Therese" is the new opera being given by the Lyceum, which will soon be given at the Grand. It is by Planquette, composer of the "Chimes of Normandy," and is said to be his best work. It was written especially for Miss Huntington. Her company numbers seventy singers. Much fine scenery, some unique Spanish dances, and some lyrics written by Louis Harrison are promised.

Miss Edythe Chapman, of Daniel Frohman's "Charity Ball" company, has been a notable young woman since she began her stage career a few seasons ago. One of her first appearances, at a matinee performance of a new play in New York city, pleased Mr. Daniel Frohman so much that he engaged her for the leading part in "The Charity Ball," which company he put out for a short spring tour two seasons ago. Last year she was not with the play, but has returned to the Lyceum, and has been her original position with "The Charity Ball."

The New York Gazette is mean enough to say that a black and white man was formerly a resident of Indianapolis: "Once more the report is current among the byways of the Rialto that Miss Elita Proctor Ois, the beautiful young amateur actress, is going to join the ranks of the regular dramatic profession. Miss Elita Proctor Ois has been a beautiful young amateur actress so long that she resembles Corinne and Fannie Herring, who have been sixteen years in the same line. Miss Elita Proctor wants a play. Now's a chance for some new adaptation of 'She.'"

TALES OF ARABIAN NIGHTS

The Good Caliph Finds Evidence of the Negligence of His Secret Board.

He Runs Up Against Abon Isaac Al Fussy Roaming About in His Gutter and Gets a Few Chronological Points.

It was high noon, and the good Caliph Haroun al Suleyman, disguised as a poor man, was on his way when he journeyed about the city of Bagdad to see and hear for himself the condition of his people, was waiting with a throng of citizens at the door of his Board of Public Works. He had been there for two long hours and would have been wearied had it not been that he found diversion in the discourse of those about him. He wondered none the less, however, that this board, which he had designed should be the servants of the people, were not in their places, and that so many should be kept from their business in the shop and in the mart through the neglect of his officers.

"By the horns of the crescent," he murmured, communing with himself, "this board is like to fall into the prevailing fashion, and is beginning to regard a public office as a private snap. It is now the third day that I have waited at these portals with these people, and I wonder not that their patience is well nigh spent."

The waiting, as the Caliph observed, was all the more irksome as those were about the door of the chamber upon which the people could rest. While himself suffering from weariness, he could not forbear to smile to see those who waited standing like cranes in a marsh, first upon one leg and then upon another.

He was about to depart when his attention was diverted to a number of well-dressed citizens who, by their conversation, he was led to believe were dwellers on the thoroughfare known as North Delaware.

"Truly," said one of these, "the sweeping of our street by the public contractor is worse than when we made it a private business. Now the great machines fill our houses with dust, which is an abomination, and the tires of their wagons bring more dirt into the street than they haul away from it, so that our last estate is far worse than our first."

"You have spoken well," said a second, "but not the whole of the truth. Hast thou not observed the manner in which the sweepers are left in the gutters and hidden away under the crossing?"

"Ay," said another, "and dost thou not know that even upon the Sabbath, to save our possessions from overflow by the winter rains, we must rake and dig away this mire?"

"Yes," quoth still another, "and yet are we burdened with taxes for this sweeping that is so illly done."

The good Caliph was greatly amused by this colloquy. He recognized among the speakers and those who gathered about them several who delighted in the name of reformer, and who, tired of the old order of things, had aspired to bring about the new. "These fellows," said the Caliph to himself, "are never happy unless they are miserable. By the horns of the crescent, were they even in paradise they would be dissatisfied with the style of their halo."

This plea, however, did not satisfy the Commander of the Faithful that he failed to observe a quiet, elderly man who stood in his way as he was about to depart. He ran against this person with such violence that the man would have fallen to the ground had he not been quick on his feet.

At midnight came the shepherds, they whom scraps waivered by the way.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

With swatches of scented hay they bed by Mary's hand, at eve was spread.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

And three kings from the East afar Ere dawn came guided by a star.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

They brought the gifts of gold and gems Rich orient pearls, pure diamonds.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

But thou, who liest slumbering there, Art king of kings, earth, ocean, air.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

Sleep, baby, sleep! the shepherds sing: Through heaven, through earth, through seas and rings.
Sleep, baby, sleep!

Long Ago.
There are faces just as perfect:
There are eyes as true and sweet;
There are hearts as strong and tender
As the heart that ceased to beat;
There are voices just as thrilling:
There are souls as white, I know,
As those who when they went from me—
My love of long ago.

New lips are ever telling
The tale that ne'er grows old;
There are eyes as true and sweet;
For some one into gold;
But amid the shine and shadow,
And the gloom and glow,
She walks with me and talks with me—
My love of long ago.

When I think of all the changes
That the changing years have brought
I am glad the world that holds her
Is the world that changes not.
And the same as when she left me
She waits for me I know—
My love of long ago, my love in heaven,
My love of long ago.

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